

January 4, 2009

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1100 Hood Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124
Soon to be: 1000 26th Ave NE, 87144

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year

Well...we were supposed to have been in our new building by now, but as you know there was a delay. In any case, according to our builder the project will wrap up this Wednesday. Archbishop Sheehan's next available time to dedicate our new building is February 1. So, on February 1, 10 AM, the Archbishop will celebrate Mass at our new parish hall and dedicate it. There will be snacks and such after the Mass. In the meantime, since there are many items which need to be transported from one place or another to the new building, I am looking for able Catholics who are willing to help us move in. I will be informing you from the pulpit when your help will be needed and where to begin. Stay tuned.

Again, Happy New Year. Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield

Upcoming Events

January 11th, 9:15	CCD Classes Resume
February 1, 2009	Archbishop Michael Sheehan Celebrates Mass
February 8, 2009 (New Schedule)	Saturday 4PM, Sunday 8AM, 10AM

Defending Our Faith -- A Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

Mormon Polytheism--A Bedrock Belief

The founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, teaches an unusual and unique doctrine of a “plurality of gods”. Not only are there many gods, but he notes, these gods were once men who became gods through “exaltation”, that is, they faithfully kept all Mormon ordinances in their lifetime.(1) Smith did not always believe in the multiplicity of gods. Many years earlier, he wrote his classic Book of Mormon, a book in which he claimed to be the “fullness of the everlasting gospel”. Smith wrote “...that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness, neither a shadow of changing. And now, if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary (change),...then ye have imagined a god who is not a god of miracles” (Mormon 9: 9-10). (2)

This kind of change proliferates the teachings of Mormonism. Smith uses displays of doublethink: “the power to hold two contradictory beliefs in one’s mind simultaneously, and *accepting both of them*.”(3) He almost never throws aside an earlier teaching because both, no matter how contradictory, are to be accepted.(4)

From the beginning of time, we humans have been tempted to be gods. For example, the snake (Satan) tempted Eve when he said “ye shall be as gods” (Gen. 3:5). The king of Babylon shouts “I will be like the most high” (Isaiah 14:14). We remember the Roman emperors who, dissatisfied with being temporal rulers, demanded to be worshiped as gods.(5)

This question of a multiplicity of gods was considered in an Epistemology course I took in college. This course explains how we think in order to determine the true from the false, by determining a proper method of evaluation. The method I am using is causation, a method used by ancient Greek philosophers of whom Aristotle is the best known. Aristotle outlined this explanation of how we think using causality. All truth can be explained by “cause and effect”. Empirical observation tells us nothing occurs without cause and effect. Marie and I are the proximate cause of our children. Our parents were the proximate cause of our existence, etc, etc. If we continue going all the way back to the “Big Bang”, we know that since matter can not create itself, there must be an Ultimate Cause that created the Universe. Simply put, reason explains this truth: there can only be one Prime Source-one God. This is the First Cause that started all that came into being. This Cause must be One Being since it is the final explanation of what exists. When one sees, as these Greeks did, the perfect order in our immensely complicated world and universe, we must conclude that a Supreme Being, whom we call God, created something out of nothing; He also continues to maintain it.

There are many allusions to One God in Scripture: Ex 20:2-3, Deut 6:4, Isaiah 43:10 and 45:5, 1 Cor8:4, Eph4:5-6, and Jn 17:3. However, these verses may not sway any Mormon. The King James Version of the Bible is only one of four sources of belief. The other three, *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrines and Covenants*, and *Pearl of Great Price* will almost always contradict Scripture used to prove a point.

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“In dealing with a Mormon about Mormonism’s conflicting teachings on the nature of God, you have to cut away the camouflage” says the staff writer of Catholic Answers who wrote the chapter “The Gods of the Mormon Church”. (6) Show how Smith’s Book of Mormon conflicts with his later writings. Is he right about the nature of God? If so, when? The Book of Mormon states there is only One, transcendent, immutable God who always was and always will be. Smith later changes this God to the god who “came to earth and had physical, sexual intercourse with the Virgin Mary. Their son, Jesus, becomes a secondary inferior god who doesn’t exist from eternity. Father god also does not exist from all eternity.”(7) Ask your Mormon friend which version is correct and true.

Keep in mind that our goal is not to win an argument but to save souls. Using the approach noted above probably will not change your Mormon acquaintance’s opinion of his faith. He simply wants to maintain his religious beliefs. Be patient and bone up on learning all you can of your faith. How can we better understand God’s nature? Check out the appropriate sections of our Catechism of the Catholic Church. Also, read the writings of the early Church Fathers concerning “The One God”: The Existence of God, Essence of God, Attributes of God, Knowledge about God, God’s Own Knowledge, and Predestination and Reprobation.(8)

Please learn as much of our faith as is individually possible. Can you imagine what our world would look like if every Catholic really knew his/her Catholic Faith and practiced it?

Peace dear friends and have a Happy and Holy New Year.

(1) Beginning Apologetics-2-How to Answer Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons, by Father Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham, p. 33

(2) The Essential Catholic Survival Guide, by The Staff of Catholic Answers, p 460

(3) Ibid., p 454

(4) Ibid. ,p 461

(5) Beginning Apologetics-2- p 33

(6) The Essential Catholic Survival Guide, p 464

(7) Ibid. p 462

(8) The Faith of the Early Fathers, Volume 1, by William A. Jurgens, Doctrinal Index, p 415-416

**Religious Education classes start on
Jan 11th at 9:15.**

**Classes will be at St Thomas Aquinas School
until further notice.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Edwinna

Blessed Angela of Foligno

Memorial: 4 January

Profile: Born a wealthy non-Christian. Married young, and had several children. Lived wild, adulterously, and sacrilegiously for a while. Following a vision in 1285, she had a conversion. After the death of her mother, husband, and children, she turned to God and penance. Franciscan tertiary, and led a group of other tertiaries. Noted for her charity, patience and humility. Visionary, mystic, and mystical writer.

Born: 1248 at Foligno, Umbria, Italy

Died: 4 January 1309 at Foligno, Italy of natural causes

Patronage: against temptations

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. The first word he said was , “Don’t.”

“Don’t what?” Adam replied.

“Don’t eat the forbidden fruit,” God said.

“Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve! We’ve got forbidden fruit!”

“No way!”

“Yes, way!”

“Do NOT eat the fruit!” commanded God.

“Why not?” said Adam.

“Because I am your Father and I said so!” God replied.

A few minutes later, God saw Adam and Eve having an apple break. He was angry and said, “Didn’t I tell you not to eat the fruit?”

“Uh huh,” Adam replied.

“Then why did you?” said the Father.

“I dunno,” said Eve.

“She started it!” Adam said.

“Did not!”

“Did too!”;

“DID NOT!”

Then God decided on Adam and Eve’s punishment: They should have children of their own.

He prospective father-in-law asked, “Young man, can you support a family?”

The surprised groom-to-be replied, “Well, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves.”

Saint John Vianney Catholic Church Tour

<http://picasaweb.google.com/gifts.of.the.holy.spirit/SaintJohnVianneyCatholicChurchTour>

Thanks to John Reynolds for this posting.

*St. John Vianney Catholic Parish Hall
Dedication and First Mass*

February 1, 2009 at 10am

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Celebrant

New Mass Schedule

Starting February 8, 2009

Saturday (Sunday Obligation) 4pm

Sunday 8 & 10am

Saturday Confession 3 - 3:45pm

Sunday Religious Education 11:15am



Volunteer Schedule	January 4, 2009		January 11, 2009	
	8:00AM	11:00AM	8:00AM	11:00AM
Ushers	Tom Anderson Jim Cutler	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Juan Serna Gary Vigil	James Dory John Christensen	Ed Uhrich Phillip Griego John Reynolds Jennifer Reynolds
EM of Holy Communion	Jose Guillen	Loretta Tafuro	Julie Burnside	Jeremy McClellan
Rosary Leader	Sheila Howard	Pinky Bjornstad	Fran Perko	Mary Bell Lucero
Altar Servers	Fernando Lucero Peter Lucero	Gary Vigil Andrew Lucero	Shane Herrera Albert Ibarra	Angela Jenkins Jen Reynolds
Readers	Julie Burnside Peggy Riley	Rosie Root Rochelle Quinones	Jose Guillen Geneva Torres	Pinky Bjornstad April McClellan

Holy Rosary

Sunday 7:40AM
 Sunday 10:40AM

Holy Mass

Sunday 8:00AM
 Sunday 11:00AM

Receive our bulletin via eMail

Visit our website at
www.sjvnm.org and click on
Subscribe to be added to the
 eMailing list. to receive the
 bulletin electronically.

Here comes 2009 with all our high expectations and dreams of a new year. A new church location, a new president and all the other new things that will come our way. I for one am looking forward to observing the year with high hopes.

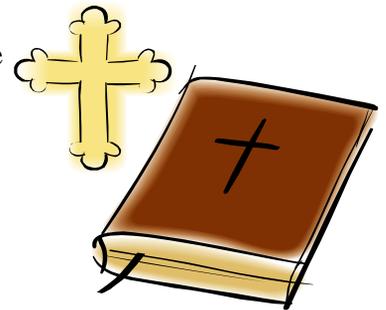
First our new location. Not a permanent church but I am sure we will have many years and many enjoyable times in the parish hall. After tens years as a mission church, to make this big step will be a memorable day.

I freely admit I did not vote for our President to be but I have him in my prayers to see the economy turn around and to find a way to further peace in the world. Here for a hopeful year to the new president.

Next comes all those things we can not even imagine. There will be births and deaths, joys and tragedies, disappointments and prideful moments, hard times and good times but in the end it will draw us another year closer to meeting our Lord.

So let us make this year a year to remember and cherish. God Bless you all. Now go forth and enjoy the adventures of the new year.

— Carl



Prayer Corner

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ Manuel Romero - For a liver transplant / recovery.
- ◆ For all our parish members that needs our prayers for their physical or spiritual well being.
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.

Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

Parish Directory

Vicar	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator	Ed Uhrich
Communications	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan.....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher & Altar Servers.....	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector	Peggy Riley
Head EM	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker	Harlan Harrington
Parish Website	www.sjvnm.org
Concerns / Questions (Leave a Message)	974-1778

Debi Wendt - Realtor
Coldwell Banker
263-7095 Cellular
891-6431 Direct
mariska564@aol.com

Welcome 2009

Holy Family
Catholic Religious Supplies
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505-898-4659

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Your NM information resource
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Prayers to Our Lady Prayers to Our Lady



THE ANGELUS

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, etc....
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord
R. Be it done unto me according to your word.
Hail Mary, etc....
V. AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.
R. And dwelt among us, *Hail Mary, etc....*
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of
the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we implore You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.